

+DIVINE SERVICE III+
OF THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

+SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT+ 05 MARCH 2023+



The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A member congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

902 S. Maple

Inglewood, CA 90301-3824

tgslcms.org

The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

“A Church where God gives and we receive.”

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- ❖ Ms. Moira Killian, Secretary (Office) 310.671-7644
 - ❖ Mr. Jay Rogers, Organist/Music Director
 - ❖ Mr. Jose Lopez, Congregational Chairman
 - ❖ Mr. Greg Griffin, Acolyte

Welcome to our Divine Service!

We are pleased that you are with us.

+Worship Notes+

The entire service, including the rubrics of when to sit and when to kneel or stand, and what to say, is printed out in this folder so you may follow along.

Welcome to weekly Divine Service at The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church! We are a congregation that confesses the Holy Bible as inerrant, that justification is by faith according to the Holy Bible and confessed in the 1580 Book of Concord. God bless you.

To all of you who are visiting our service this morning, we extend a most cordial welcome in Jesus' name. Please introduce yourself to our pastor. It is our hope that you will feel at home in our midst and will be blessed by our message of Christ crucified and risen for the sins of the world. If you are looking for a church home and would like to know about our membership, pastor would love to speak with you!

A Note From The Organist:

Allan Mahnke is professor emeritus at Concordia University in St. Paul. He is a pupil of Paul Manz, among other things. He gives us a very effective setting of “Rockingham Old,” using flutes, strings, and clarinet.

Swælinek was possibly the most important composer of his period. Many students came to Amsterdam to study with him, and they went on to develop what is called the North German School. He did settings of a number of Lutheran Chorales, which he most likely learned from his German pupils.

“All Who Believe and Are Baptized” consists of two variations. The first one sets the melody in the pedal on the trumpet stop. The second is played on the principal chorus with the melody in the soprano part.

Confession and Absolution

Hymn of Invocation

426 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross On which the
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the
 3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet Sor - row and
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, That were a



Prince of Glo - ry died, My rich - est gain I
 death of Christ, my God; All the vain things that
 love flow min - gled down! Did e'er such love and
 trib - ute far too small; Love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss And pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to His blood.
 sor - row meet Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
 so di - vine, De - mands my soul, my life, my all!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Tune: Second Supplement to Psalmody in Miniature, 1778, London; adapt. Edward Miller, 1731–1807

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Exhortation

LSB 184

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**
P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Kneel/Stand

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

LSB 184

- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,
C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

Absolution

LSB 185

- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Stand

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 105:4–7; antiphon: v. 8

He remembers his covenant for- | ever,*
 the word that he commanded, for a thousand gener- | ations.
Seek the LORD | and his strength;*
seek his presence con- | tinually!
 Remember the wondrous works that | he has done,*
 his miracles, and the judgments he | uttered,
O offspring of Abraham, his | servant,*
children of Jacob, his | chosen ones!
 He is the | LORD our God;*
 his judgments are in | all the earth.

Gloria Patri

LSB 186



C Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Kyrie

LSB 186



C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

✠ Gloria in Excelsis is omitted during Lent ✠

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.

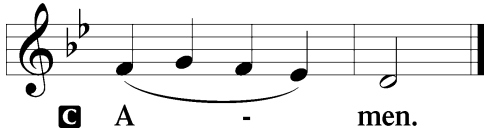


C And with thy spir - it.



P Let us pray.

- P** O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit

Old Testament

Genesis 12:1-9

The Call of Abram

¹The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother’s son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, ⁶Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. ⁸From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. ⁹And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 121; antiphon: vv. 1-2

My Help Comes from the LORD

¹I lift up my eyes | to the hills.*

From where does my | help come?

²**My help comes | from the LORD,***
who made | heaven and earth.

³He will not let your | foot be moved,*
 he who keeps you will not | slumber.

⁴**Behold, he who keeps | Israel***
will neither slum- | ber nor sleep.

⁵The LORD is your | keeper,*
the LORD is your shade on your | right hand.

⁶**The sun shall not strike | you by day,*
nor the | moon by night.**

⁷The LORD will keep you from all | evil,*
he will | keep your life.

⁸**The LORD will keep
your going out and your | coming in*
from this time forth and for- | evermore.**

Epistle

Romans 4:1-8

Abraham Justified by Faith

¹What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." ⁴Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. ⁵And to the one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, ⁶just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:

⁷"Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven,
and whose sins are covered;

⁸blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Tract

Psalms 106:1-4

**Oh give thanks to the LORD, for | he is good,*
for his steadfast love endures for- | ever!**

**Who can utter the mighty deeds | of the LORD,*
or declare | all his praise?**

**Blessèd are they who observe | justice,*
who do righteousness | at all times!**

**Remember me, O LORD, when you show favor to your | people,*
help me when you | save them.**

Holy Gospel

John 3:1-17

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

You Must Be Born Again

¹Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ²This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." ³Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' ⁸The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

**☐ I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

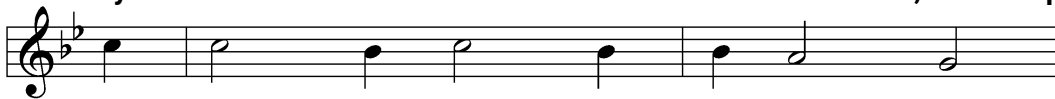
**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.**

Sit



Hymn of the Day

544 O Love, How Deep



1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high,
 2 He sent no an - gel to our race,
 3 For us bap - tized, for us He bore
 4 For us He prayed; for us He taught;



Be - yond all thought and fan - ta - sy,
 Of high - er or of low - er place,
 His ho - ly fast and hun - gered sore;
 For us His dai - ly works He wrought,



That God, the Son of God, should take
 But wore the robe of hu - man frame,
 For us temp - ta - tion sharp He knew;
 By words and signs and ac - tions thus



Our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!
 And to this world Him - self He came.
 For us the tempt - er o - ver - threw.
 Still seek - ing not Him - self but us.

5 For us by wickedness betrayed,
 For us, in crown of thorns arrayed,
 He bore the shameful cross and death;
 For us He gave His dying breath.

6 For us He rose from death again;
 For us He went on high to reign;
 For us He sent His Spirit here
 To guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

△ 7 All glory to our Lord and God
 For love so deep, so high, so broad;

The Trinity whom we adore Forever and forevermore.

Text: attr. Thomas à Kempis, 1380–1471; tr. Benjamin Webb, 1819–85, alt.
Tune: English, 15th cent.
Text: Public domain

Sermon

Pastor Edward Killian

Stand

Offertory

LSB 192

C Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Offering *Collected after service in the back of the church.*

Prayer of the Church

The proper response is "Hear our prayer."

P Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Heavenly Father, Your Son has shown Your love to the world in His death

and resurrection. Give Your people hearts to remember Your gracious works and to proclaim Your name in all things. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord God, heavenly Father, You promise us an inheritance not because of Your law but because of Your promise to Abraham and to us. In Your grace, nourish us in the faith unto life eternal. Lord, in Your mercy,

P Heavenly Father, You made Your servant Abraham the father of us all through faith, and You have given all fathers the calling of Abraham to hand down the Gospel of Christ. Fill their hearts with the words of Christ, and remember them according to Your great mercy. Lord, in Your mercy,

P Almighty God, remember our nation and its leaders. Bless all who make, administer and judge our laws, and enable us to be good and responsible citizens. Lord, in Your mercy,

P Gracious Lord, be near to the sick and the suffering especially *Alice, Bev, Carmen, Cynthia, Debra, Dolores, Gene, Jane, Jod, Johnathan, Karen, Lynette, Marion and her family, Megan, Naomi, Royce and her family, Sabrina, Steven, Susie and her family, Suzanne, and Timothy, and those we name in our hearts.* Comfort them with Your divine promises, and grant healing according to Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,

P Heavenly Father, Nicodemus was led by the word of Jesus to the cross, and from the cross he received the body of Jesus. Grant us faith like his to trust Your Word and receive Christ's body and blood in the Holy Sacrament for forgiveness, life and salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

P Lord God, You give life to the dead and have united the faithful of all ages in the Body of Christ. As You shelter all the saints in the arms of Your mercy, so comfort us who await Your final victory over death and the life of the world to come. Lord, in Your mercy,

P All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

C Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 194



P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spir - it.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up un - to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.

C It is meet and right so to do.

Proper Preface (Abbreviated)

LSB 194

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 195

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;

heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,

ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless-ed is He, bless-ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 196



P Our Father who art in heav - en, hal - low - ed be Thy name,



Thy king - dom come, Thy will be done on earth as it



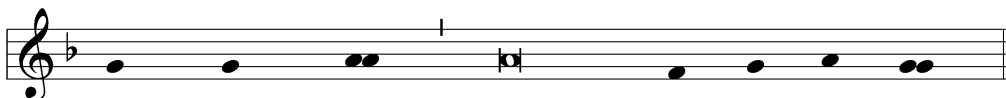
is in heav - en; give us this day our dai - ly bread;



and forgive us our tres - pass - es as we forgive those who



tres - pass a - gainst us; and lead us not in - to



temp - ta - tion, but deliver us from e - vil.



C For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the



glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197



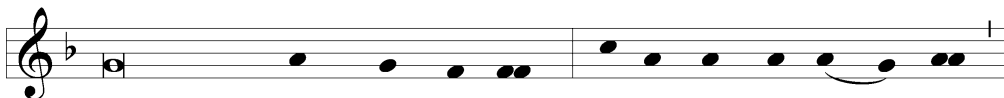
P Our Lord Je-sus Christ, on the night when He was be-trayed, took bread,



and when He had giv - en thanks, He broke it and gave it to the



dis-ci-ples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ bod - y, which is giv-en for you.



This do in re - mem - brance of Me." In the same way al - so



He took the cup after sup - per, and when He had giv-en thanks, He gave it



to them, say - ing: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in



My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the for-give-ness of sins.



This do, as often as you drink it, in re-mem-brance of Me.”

Pax Domini

LSB 197



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 198



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Distribution

Distribution Hymn

618 I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table



1 I come, O Sav - ior, to Thy ta - ble, For weak and
2 Thy heart is filled with fer - vent yearn - ing That sin - ners
3 Un - wor - thy though I am, O Sav - ior, Be - cause I
4 Wea - ry am I and heav - y lad - en; With sin my
5 What high - er gift can we in - her - it? It is faith's



wea - ry is my soul; Thou, Bread of Life, a -
may sal - va - tion see Who, Lord, to Thee in
have a sin - ful heart, Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt
soul is sore op - pressed; Re - ceive me gra - cious -
bond and sol - id base; It is the strength of



lone art a - ble To sat - is - fy and make me whole:
faith are turn - ing; So I, a sin - ner, come to Thee.
ban - ish nev - er, For Thou my faith - ful shep - herd art:
ly and glad - den My heart, for I am now Thy guest.
heart and spir - it, The cov - e - nant of hope and grace.

Refrain



Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

Text: Friedrich Christian Heyder, 1677–1754; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, abr.

Tune: Emskirchner Choral-Buch, 1756, Leipzig

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000401

Tune: Public domain



Distribution Hymn

606 I Lay My Sins on Jesus



1 I lay my sins on Je - sus, The spot - less Lamb of God;
 2 I lay my wants on Je - sus; All full - ness dwells in Him;
 3 I rest my soul on Je - sus, This wea - ry soul of mine;



He bears them all and frees us From the ac - curs - ed load.
 He heals all my dis - eas - es; My soul He does re - deem.
 His right hand me em - brac - es; I on His breast re - cline.



I bring my guilt to Je - sus To wash my crim - son stains
 I lay my griefs on Je - sus, My bur - dens and my cares;
 I love the name of Je - sus, Im - man - uel, Christ, the Lord;

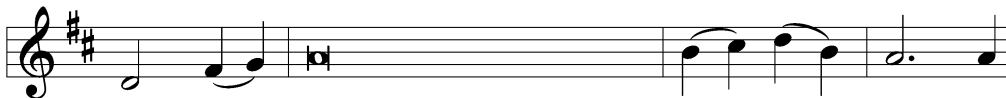


Clean in His blood most pre - cious Till not a spot re - mains.
 He from them all re - leas - es; He all my sor - rows shares.
 Like fra - grance on the breez - es His name a - broad is poured.

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -



cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,

a light to light-en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy

peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and

to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Thanksgiving

LSB 200

A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.
 We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Salutation

LSB 201



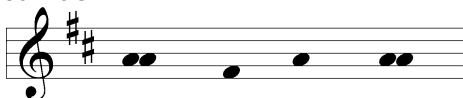
P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

LSB 202



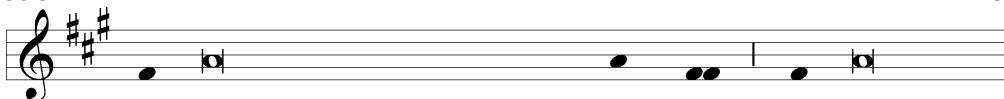
A Bless we the Lord.



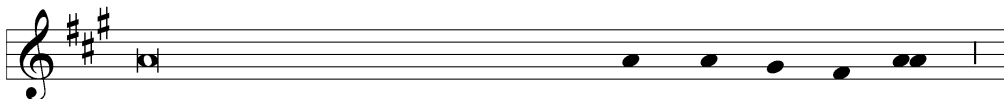
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

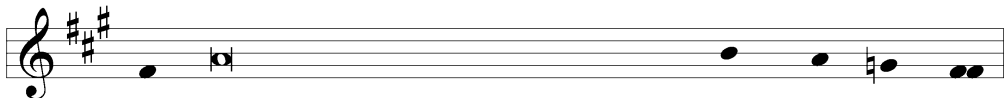
LSB 202



P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Hymn to Depart

427 In the Cross of Christ I Glory



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, Tow'r - ing
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, Hopes de -
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing Light and
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure By the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of sa - cred
ceive, and fears an - noy, Nev - er shall the cross for -
love up - on my way, From the cross the ra - diance
cross are sanc - ti - fied; Peace is there that knows no



sto - ry Gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
sake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy.
stream - ing Adds more lus - ter to the day.
mea - sure, Joys that through all time a - bide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792-1872
Tune: Ithamar Conkey, 1815-67
Text and tune: Public domain

All Who Believe And Are Baptized

J. P. Sweelinck (1562-1621)

Acknowledgments

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Join us for Lenten Midweek Services

Vespers – Wednesday, March 8th @7pm – The Lord’s Prayer

Vespers – Wednesday, March 15th @7pm – Holy Baptism

Vespers – Wednesday, March 22nd @7pm – Confession

Vespers – Wednesday, March 29th @7pm – Sacrament of the Altar

Vespers – Wednesday, April 5th @7pm

Lenten Suppers will be held in the Assembly Room at 6pm before service.

✠ THIS WEEK'S NOTES ✠

Announcements

+ **Last Sunday's Attendance:**
Midweek Attendance:

+ **Altar Guild Set Up:** February 5th Maurine
March 12th Susie

+ **Happy Anniversary to Dick and Alice Huhn!!!**

+ **Today is Mite Sunday! The mite offering collection box is located on the coffee table in the Narthex.**

March Birthdays

Keegan Guyett 5th
Weston Higgins 5th
Marion Cotton 5th
Jose Lopez 7th
Taylor Hurd 19th
Kannon Wilhite 22nd

An Excerpt From Martin Luther's Writings

16. *For God so loved the world.*

Shortly before Christ had said: "The Son of man must be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life." Now He says: "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." What Christ said above about the Son of man—that He must be lifted up—He now also says about the Son of God. He tells us that God's great love prompted Him to give His only Son. Earlier He said that Mary had given her Son, and now He says: "God the Father gave His Son to be crucified." God's Son and Mary's Son is only one Person. He appropriates both natures for the work of salvation and redemption from eternal death. John the evangelist always links the two natures, deity and humanity, together.

A Snippet From 1517

The Church is called to be counter-cultural, to stand out in order that the world might see and hear the truth and be brought into the Kingdom.

The Old Testament Lesson for this Sunday is written in the first book of the Torah, Genesis. The text is [Genesis 12:1-9](#) and is the beginning of an entirely new section of Genesis frequently referred to as the Patriarchal era. This is the first time the LORD calls out to Abram to establish a covenant. More details on the actual covenant are provided later but this is the beginning. We have no evidence of what kind of faith Abram already possessed in the LORD, if any. Jewish tradition provides interesting stories telling us how Terah, Abram's father, was an idol maker. When Abram received the Call from the LORD he went into his father's workshop and destroyed all the idols. Again, this is according to Jewish tradition and not in the text of Scripture.

One of the major themes in this pericope is the motif of separation and reunion. Abram is called to leave his country, his kinsmen and his family and go to the land of Canaan. Note the threefold nature of this separation. This is a recurring theme throughout Scripture, and we see its fulfillment in the person of Christ who left His country, the heavenly host of Heaven and His Father to journey to our earth—Heaven to Earth to Hell and back again. It is important to understand the purpose of this separation. God sets apart the people of Israel, but for a purpose. The people are set apart and kept separate from the other nations for the Covenant to be fulfilled and the Messiah to come and bless them and, thereby, bless the whole world (blessed to be a blessing). Because this has occurred, as God kept His promises and fulfilled the Covenant, the purpose for this separation no longer exists. In fact, the people of Israel are no longer the chosen, set aside people of God—this would be the Church! So, the LORD God separates in order to bring about reunion. God sets apart the people of Israel, beginning with Abram, in order to reunite the entire world to Him in Christ Jesus. Now, the Church is set apart to be a light, salt, and a city on the hill in order that the whole world might be saved through the Gospel. Note how the Church is not supposed to blend in to or mimic the culture. The Church is not called to be a chameleon. Rather, the Church is called to be counter-cultural, to stand out in order that the world might see and hear the truth and be brought into the Kingdom.

Of course, we know the struggles Abram would have faced if he had not been separated from country, kin and family. This is easily applied in our preaching as we live in this world but are called not to be a part of the world. Again, the Church and her people are to be different, to stand out from the world in which we live. This is a way in which the Gospel is proclaimed in Word and deed. *Jeffery Pulse, 2020*